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(54) SHOES

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Japan

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No. OF CLAIMS 8

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A shoe is proposed which is formed with a plurality of indentations on the upper thereof for greater flexibility.

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This invention relates to shoes.

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The conventional shoes employ as their upper a leather not particularly processed for flexibility. Therefore, the upper bends and stretches in a rather unnatural manner in use. Such repeated bendings and stretchings tend to produce bulging portions and sunken portions on the upper with prolonged use. Such shoes do not fit so well to the foot, are not comfortable to wear, and hasten the fatigue of the foot. Also, with continued use, the leather used for the upper was liable to stretch, further worsening the fitness and performance of the shoes. Further, the upper, particularly the side portions thereof, become worn quickly due to unnatural bendings. The latter often forms wrinkles on the upper, worsening the appearance of the shoes.

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An object of the present invention is to provide shoes which obviate the above-mentioned shortcomings and which fit well to the foot, are comfortable to wear, and have a greater durability and performance.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following description taken with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic view of the first embodiment;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a portion of the upper thereof;

Fig. 3 is a schematic view of the second embodiment; and

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Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional view of a portion thereof.



1 Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 illustrating the first embodiment, the numeral 1 generally designates a shoe embodying this invention. The shoe is formed with a plurality of indentations or depressions 3 in the forms of vertical grooves on the side portion of an upper 2. They may be provided either on only the vamp or forepart of the shoe or on the whole side portion thereof.

10 Such indentations may be formed by pressing with or without application of heat.

Referring to Figs. 3 and 4 illustrating the second embodiment, the shoe 1 is formed with a plurality of dimples 4 on the upper 2 in a suitable arrangement, preferably, in such a shifted arrangement as illustrated in Fig. 3. Although in this embodiment the dimples are provided on almost the whole part of the upper, they may be provided only at parts which will be subjected to severe bendings. They may also be provided on the back side of the upper. The dimples can be formed by
20 dieing with a hot die before the stitching work.

It will be understood from the foregoing that in both of the embodiments, the grooves or dimples help to control the bending of the upper and give it greater flexibility. Since the shoes fit better the last during manufacturing, the shoes with such grooves or dimples fit better to the foot, feel lighter to wear, and give little fatigue to the foot even after use for a long time.

30 If the grooves or dimples are formed by hot dieing, the portions thus treated will harden and

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become less liable to stretch with use. This increases the durability of the shoes and eliminates the necessity of providing a lining to prevent the upper from stretching. This helps to decrease the manufacturing cost and make the shoes lighter.

Also, the shoes may be formed with both the vertical grooves and the dimples in a suitable arrangement.

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Although in the preferred embodiments this invention has been applied to sporting shoes, it can be applied to any types of shoes.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that various changes or modifications may be made within the scope of this invention.

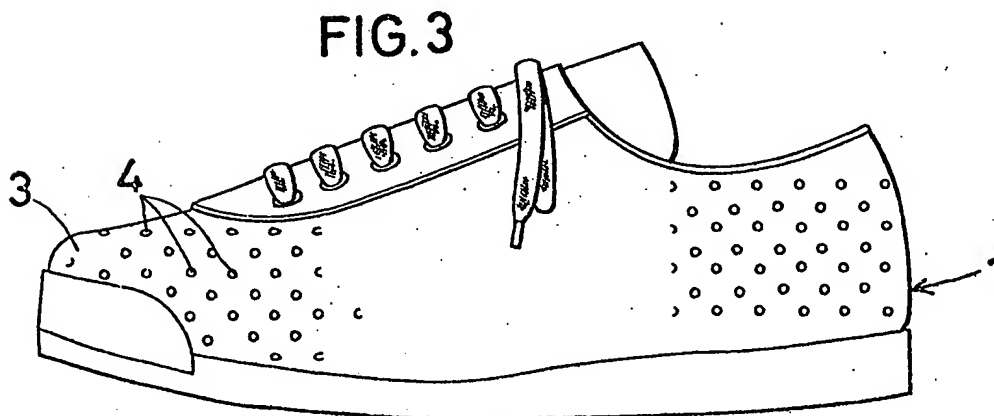
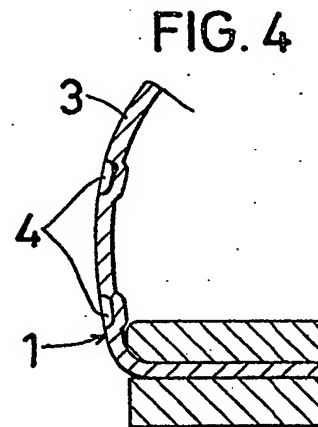
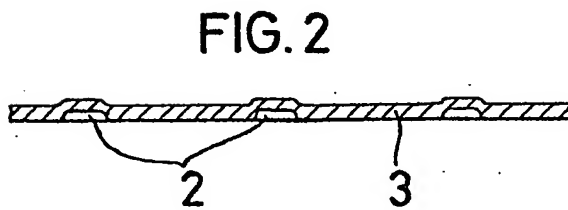
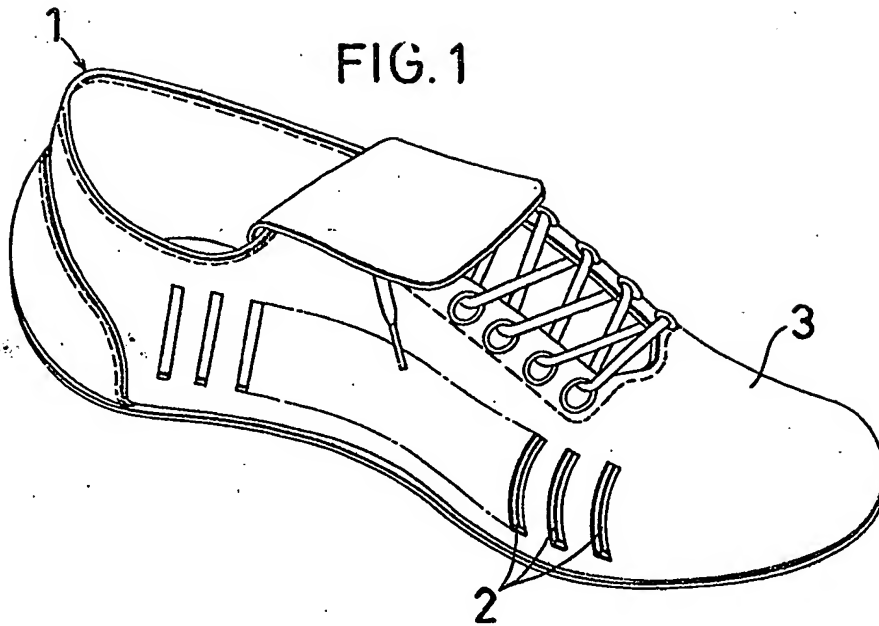
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The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A shoe formed with a plurality of indentations on the upper thereof to make it more flexible.
2. The shoe as claimed in claim 1 wherein said indentations are in the form of vertical grooves.
3. The shoe as claimed in claim 1 wherein said indentations are in the form of dimples.
4. The shoe as claimed in claim 3 wherein said indentations are provided on the back side of the upper.
5. The shoe as claimed in claim 1 wherein said indentations are a combination of those in the form of vertical grooves and those in the form of dimples.
6. The shoe as claimed in claim 2 wherein said upper is formed from leather.
7. The shoe as claimed in claim 3 wherein said upper is formed from leather.
8. The shoe as claimed in claim 6 or 7 wherein the indentations on the leather upper are formed by dieing with a hot die.





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